

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph beginning at line 17 on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

The objects above are solved by a comparator with the features according to ~~the independent apparatus claim 1~~an embodiment of the invention. In brief, a comparator according to the invention comprises two amplifier stages: A differential amplifier is provided having differential inputs forming the comparator inputs and a first and second amplifier output, these forming the comparator outputs of a first comparator stage. The second stage includes two differential amplifiers: A first differential current amplifier connected with its inputs to the amplifier outputs and with its output to the first amplifier output, and a second differential current amplifier connected with its inputs to the amplifier outputs and with its output to the second amplifier output.